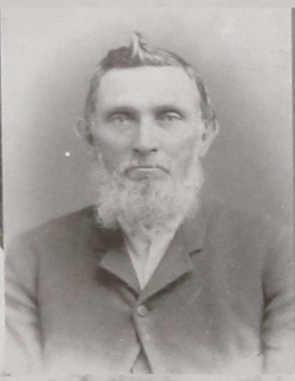
Flashback

Volume 68, No. 4 Winter 2018

180 Years:
Washington County's Historic Johnson Farm



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Flashback

Journal of the Washington County Historical Society

Preserving our past for future generations

Volume 68 | Winter 2018 | Number 4

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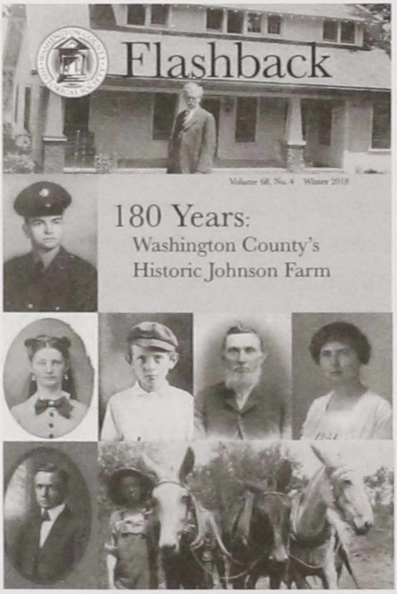
Editor's note: With the Fall *Flashback* issue, Charlie Alison ended eight years as editor. WCHS thanks Charlie for his outstanding service.



On the cover

The roots of the historic Johnson farm on Kessler Mountain, about five miles south of Fayetteville, reach back to 1838, through generations of the Johnson family. Some of the family members who were among the earliest settlers are pictured on the cover of the Winter 2018 issue of Flashback. Their story is told in the two-part prize-winning article by Amanda Bancroft. Part II will appear in the Spring 2019 issue of the journal. Photographs provided by the author.

The Historic Johnson Farm: Preserving History and Ecology, Part I

By Amanda Bancroft

Overture for a Forgotten Community

Imagine a place where time is layered instead of linear, where hardly anything is thrown away and the new gets gently positioned around the old. Envision a pioneer village so forgotten by the modern world that we no longer remember the name for the mountain upon which it resides. Former residents are the subjects of Washington County murals and historical markers, their buildings throughout the county are on the national register, and we have named cities, roads, and mountains after them, but few know that these prominent citizens lived, died, and were buried here. Farmer, orphan, slave, rich, poor, soldier, or mother, all are equally worthy of being remembered for their contributions to our county and this forgotten community.

This place is Rieff's Chapel Community, nowadays called the Historic Johnson Farm or "the pear farm," about 5 miles south of Fayetteville on Rieff's Mountain, what we consider the southeastern slope of Kessler Mountain today. Kessler Mountain was in the news in 2017-'18 as the location of many wonderful ecological and recreational projects. The Historic Johnson Farm at that time joined the ranks of these protected properties thanks to the insight of its current owner, Anne (Johnson) Prichard, and the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust, adding the magic of history to the enchantment that is Kessler. We call this a farm because it is a farm, but it's also a former community, with dozens of

Amanda Bancroft is a writer, artist, and naturalist who lives with her husband Ryan at the Historic Johnson Farm on Kessler Mountain. She loves the mysteries of history and greatly enjoyed researching the farm for this article. You can reach her at the website RipplesBlog.org

existing or remnant structures built by multiple families since the earliest settlers, including a pioneer cemetery, a wagon road, a one-room schoolhouse, and more.

Time travel is made possible here, thanks to hundreds of first-hand accounts. A record of daily life exists in exquisite detail, including: clothes, diaries, receipts, photographs, letters, tools, ticket stubs, furniture, and even homework assignments from the days of the one-room schoolhouses. The size of the collections make it possible to stand in almost any spot, wear exactly what was worn by those who stood before, see what they saw, use the same tools they held, eat the same meal they ate (recipes included), and hear precisely what happened at that moment from their point of view. Afterwards, one could theoretically wash up with the same handmade soap, since this, too, was saved.

This place holds historically significant information not only to our county, but to families and communities across the nation and the world. Various collections from both Washington County families and hundreds of families from other locations date from the early 1800s (possibly earlier) through present day. It appears that one need only whisper a local history question in this place, and it will (eventually) be answered.

This article merely seeks to be an introduction, a sort of "pie supper" for our modern community to meet Rieff's Chapel Community. Thanks to the size of the collections, in most cases we can let them speak for themselves! As of this writing, many more boxes of letters from the Johnson Farm have yet to be read, with stories yet untold, so we can assume that we may hear more from the pioneer families of Rieff's Chapel in the future.

The Store Swap.

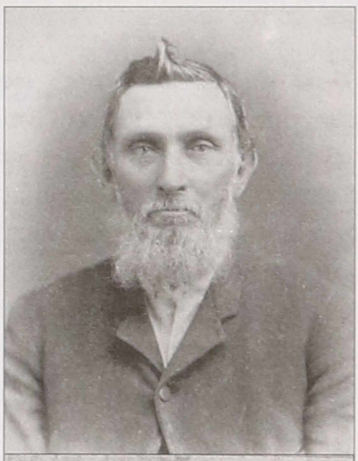
If it hadn't been for a certain Missouri store swapped for an Arkansas pear orchard, the farm may not be here today. The Historic Johnson Farm got its name from the same Johnson family of the Johnson Mill and other well-known places. Born on Mineral Springs Road in Washington County, Arkansas, Benjamin Franklin Johnson II[1] owned and operated the B. F. Johnson Cash Store in Everton, Missouri, from the late 1800s until November 1908 when the family returned to Arkansas. Many of the original wooden boxes from the store have sur-

vived and are still in use today in the Johnson farmhouse 5 miles south of Fayetteville.

Writer Nolan Gunter recorded one of the Johnson's funny stories about their general store in local Missouri paper: "A farmer came into the store, and noticing the new barrel of sorghum, he asked Mr. Johnson if he would sell him a bucket so he could buy some sorghum to take home. Mr. Johnson informed the farmer that he had sold out all his buckets and didn't have a pail of any kind in stock right then, so the farmer began looking around over the store for any kind of a container and he spied on a shelf a row of new chambers. He reasoned that any family could use an extra bedroom article like that, so he grabbed up one of the vessels, had Mr. Johnson fill it with molasses, clamped on the lid, paid for his articles and went out. But in a few minutes, the man came marching back into the store, deposited the container of sorghum on the counter and meekly said to Mr. Johnson, 'I met my wife out on the street, and when I told her what I had bought, she told me I'd have to bring it right back, that she couldn't eat a bite of sorghum out of that chamber-pot if her life depended on it!'"[2] B. F. Johnson II granted a refund, and the family had a good laugh every time they remembered the unusual sorghum deal.

The Johnsons acquired their farm in something of an unusual circumstance. According to oral history, a traveling salesman by the name of Ucker walked into the store and saw pears on the counter. He asked B. F. Johnson II, "Oh, are you interested in pears? I have a pear orchard for sale down in Arkansas." Ben was indeed interested in pears. "Well, is there water?" asked Ben. "Yes, there's a spring that never runs dry," responded Mr. Ucker. Ben went to check out the orchard, and his wife Rachel[3] told him to "make sure there's good water." She knew of water sources there that were not to be desired, because both Ben and Rachel had family in Arkansas.

Ben's family numbered their "Bens" in a humorous but easy to follow method. B. F. Johnson II was the nephew of his namesake, Uncle Benjamin Franklin Johnson the first (numbered B1).[4] B1, or Uncle Ben, was also nicknamed Bloody Ben because of his reputation during the Civil War as a bushwhacker. B1 became a prominent landowner and built the 1878 brick I-house which still stands today on the Middle Fork Valley of the White River. B2 is also the nephew of Jacob



Queener Johnson (B1's brother) of the Johnson House & Mill in Johnson, Arkansas, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Goodspeed's had this to say about B1: "Among the most successful farmers and stock dealers and prominent citizens of Washington County, Ark., may be mentioned B. F. Johnson... He has always been a strong advocate of public improvements, and has given several hundred dollars to aid in the construction of railroads in his county, and throughout life has taken a deep interest in all enterprises tending to benefit the county and the cause of education... he commenced life with no capital but his two hands and a vast amount of energy and pluck, but is now the owner of 932 acres of land and has one of the finest residences in the county."[5]

B. F. Johnson II of the general store was named after his uncle B1, and labeled B2. B2's parents were Mary Ann Pilkington[6] and Oliver Perry Johnson[7] (B1's brother) who was a miller near Mt. Vernon, Missouri. "Johnson's mills were

(Top) Benjamin Franklin Johnson (B1) of Middlefork, Washington County, also called Uncle Ben. (Center) Benjamin Franklin Johnson II (B2) of the B. F. Johnson Cash Store in Everton, Missouri and the Johnson Farm in Washington County. (Bottom) Rachel Elizabeth Divelbiss Johnson as a young woman.

known for miles and miles and patronized by farmers far and near. He accumulated considerable property, and built large meal, flouring and carding machine mills on Turnback Creek run by water power."[8]

B2's son, Benjamin Franklin Johnson III, was called B3 and the grandson, B4. And this was the numbering scheme that each generation used, even signing their letters in this way.

Rachel also had Arkansas roots She was a school teacher at several Washington County schools in the late 1800s, and her school desk bell is still kept in the Johnson farmhouse. While teaching, she stayed at the Middle Fork home of B1. B1 told his namesake B2, "I have something you might like to see." B2 visited his uncle and saw Rachel riding back to the house on a mule along with some school children. The two kept up correspondence, and decided to wed. Rachel Elizabeth Divelbiss married Benjamin Franklin Johnson II on January 4, 1885, in Washington County, Arkansas, after their wedding was delayed when the preacher couldn't get across the flooded river. The couple had 6 children: Mary Eva (called Eva), Lenora Ellen, Frederick Wayne (called Wayne because Frederick sounded too German), Wilton Draper, Arthur Queener, and Benjamin Franklin III (B3 or Bennie).

Back at the general store, B2 decided to take Mr. Ucker up on his offer and swap his store for the 80-acre Ucker pear orchard, "even-steven." As we shall soon see, the move did not go smoothly, and the Johnsons stayed awhile with their relatives at the Johnson Mill.

A Thanksgiving Arrival.

The Johnsons traveled from Everton, Missouri, to Rieff's Chapel Community south of Fayetteville, Arkansas, by train. It was a two-day trip, and they had to put all of their belongings in a boxcar. Their oldest son Wayne[9] stayed with the cows so he could milk them regularly. There were also bee hives kept in the same car, and the family worried he might get stung, but he didn't. Daughters Eva[10] and Lenora[11] stayed behind to work as hat decorators in the Christmas rush while the rest of the family moved. It was a special treat for women to have a Christmas hat at the time, so demand was high.

From a letter dated November 26, 1908, Rachel wrote to Eva and Lenora: "Dear Girls, We reached here all O.K. The [railway] car has not come and the agent says it will likely come at midnight. I do wish I

had stayed there for I know you were so tired. I feel well but rather stiff. When we passed the store, Bennie [B3, age 7] said 'Good bye good old Everton.' Then when we passed the state line he said it was good bye Missouri. It is such a pretty day. I do wish the car was here. Papa has come and says for the rest of us to go back to Johnson's so it is near train time. Be good girls and do not work too hard. I will write again tomorrow if we get out to the farm in time."

Benjamin Franklin Johnson III as a boy moving to Arkansas.

At age 10 around 1911, B3[12] wrote an autobiography (possibly a school assignment at Rieff's Chapel School #12) telling of his early life and arrival in Arkansas. "My birthplace was a one story frame building in Everton, Missouri. I was born June 12th, 1901 AD...in November [1908] father traded the stock of goods for the farm we live on now. The day we started [for Arkansas] was Thanksgiving Day. It was a rather warm day. When we got here the car in which we brought our things had not got here yet so we had to go to some of our kinfolks. The next morning it was rainy. So we had to move in the rain. When we got there they had a fire in the fire place. A fireplace takes three times as much wood as a stove. The next summer I raised a watermelon patch. I had lots of melons, on one vine two of them grew side by side. One weighed 39 pounds the other 36. Last year I raised a patch of peanuts. I took a peck to the fair and got the premium which was one dollar. I now have a savings bank account amounting to about 15 dollars."[13]

Much later in life, Rachel would write in one of her letters that this 1908 Thanksgiving was the only Thanksgiving dinner she never had to cook! The Johnsons survived their first winter on the canned goods the family brought, as well as some turnips which the Uckers planted between the rows of pear trees. But neither the Johnsons nor the

Uckers were the first to begin farming here. Rieff's Chapel Community and its farms were taking shape in the 1830s.

Early Farm History.

Today we say that the Historic Johnson Farm is situated within the foothills on the southeast slope of Kessler Mountain, but this land was referred to in an 1888 Arkansas Geological Survey as Rieff's Mountain, for its namesake John Rieff, one of the earliest settlers of this area.[14] According to an 1860 soil sample report from the John Rieff farm (the modern-day Johnson Farm) the land had been cultivated for the previous 38 years, starting around 1821 or 1822, although the report didn't cite a source for that information.[15] The original land survey, begun on October 1, 1831, by Nicholas Rightor, records a cultivated field already in existence.[16] This places the earliest documented cultivation of the Johnson Farm at about 1831. The survey also cites native forests of oak, hickory, black walnut, persimmon, elm, sycamore, and black locust trees, all of which (and more) are still found on the farm today.[17]

For early farm history, we will focus on the original 80 acres bought by the Johnsons from the Uckers (although the farm changed size throughout the ages) because most of the historical structures and records on Rieff's Chapel Community exist within these tracts.

The first owner on record of the southern 40 acres is Thomas Tilman Martin in 1834.[18] James and Elizabeth Ann Martin sold this fraction, along with another tract to the west, to John Rieff in 1838 for $1,000.[19] In 1843, John Rieff became owner of the north 40 acres, making him the sole owner of all 80 acres (plus more) and marking the beginning of a new era.[20]

1838-1870: The Rieff Era.

The Rieff family would operate this farm for more than three decades. John Rieff,[21] his wife Hannah Ross,[22] and their children and relatives came to Northwest Arkansas in 1838. The family owned many properties in the original town of Fayetteville and surrounding rural communities. By 1847, John Rieff's taxable property included 320 acres of land, 2 town lots in Fayetteville, 4 slaves, 5 head of horses, and 10 head of cattle.[23] If only we could chat with Walter J. Lemke, who saw the Rieff records and published some of them in Flashback, we might

know more about the farm's early days. I could not locate the collection Lemke referred to, unfortunately.

It appears that John Rieff was a "meat and potatoes" sort of guy. The 1860 agricultural schedule for the John Rieff Farm, stored at the Arkansas State Archives in Little Rock, shows that he had 60 improved acres and 180 unimproved acres (total 240). The value of the farm was given as at least $1,400 but the first number in the record is difficult to read. The value of implements and machinery was $130. There were 4 horses and a number of mules, "milch" cows, oxen, cattle, and double digits of sheep and swine. (Quantities of each item were often illegible so I didn't hazard a guess.) The value of livestock was $400. The farm produced 174 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of Indian corn, about 70 bushels of oats, 15 pounds of wool, 10 or 20 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 25 bushels of sweet potatoes. The pounds of butter produced was in the triple digits.

But in 1870, the farm schedule recorded the following for the year ending June 1, less than one month after John Rieff's death: zero acres of improved land, zero acres of unimproved woodland, and 120 acres of "other unimproved land." The value of the farm was around $700, there was no value listed for farming implements and machinery, and only 1 mule, 3 milch cows, 2 cattle and some swine. The total value of livestock was $200. The farm produced 100 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of Indian corn, 20 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 12 bushels of sweet potatoes. Only 50 pounds of butter were produced in 1870. The value of slaughtered animals or those sold for slaughter was listed as $50, and the estimated value of all farm production including betterments and addition to stock was $300.

John Rieff had several slaves on records throughout the years, including two young men named Madison and Wesley who were listed in slave schedules as living in Prairie Township rather than within the city of Fayetteville, thus likely living at the farm.[24] In 1854, John Rieff gave his son Henry Rieff all his property and possessions, including his two slaves Madison (32) and Wesley (18), and the 80 acres of the future Johnson Farm. John included a provision that he should be allowed to use the property for the duration of his life. But for some unknown reason, in 1859 Henry and Sarah Rieff returned all of this property back to John Rieff. Madison and Wesley were young enough to see

freedom in the coming years, but their record trail ends just before the Civil War. Research is ongoing, and someday, we may be able to honor their memory beyond just their first names.

With the help of many neighboring families, the Rieffs established Rieff's Chapel Community, with its own cemetery, chapel and schoolhouse.

Rieff's Chapel Cemetery and Schoolhouse.

Rieff's Chapel Cemetery began in the 1840s. The first known burial (according to WCHS records and a reading of graves done by the Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society) was the burial of John Rieff's daughter-in-law Mary Alexander Rieff, wife of Martin Cartnell Rieff, on October 19, 1845. It is bordered on three sides by a rock wall, and once had a "windswept pine" standing in the center, as seen in the photo. After this old tree fell, Ed and Eugene Kelly planted 5 maple trees in honor of the Kelly sisters, with 4 at each

(Top) Rieff's Chapel Cemetery on January 4, 1953, showing the windswept pine at center. (Left) Rieff's Chapel Schoolhouse. The school's name is written above the doors. Report cards and other memorabilia survive with the school's name typed on them.

corner and one in the center.[25] Grace Josephine (Kelly) Johnson, who married Arthur Queener Johnson[26] of the Johnson Farm, is the sister for whom the still-living old maple in the center was dedicated. Today, half the maples are either dead and gone or slowly losing limbs. Grace and Arthur are both buried there, along with John and Hannah Rieff, Philip Kessler, his wife, Katherine, and other notable pioneers. (Please refer to Appendix A following the Endnotes for the family names of those buried there.)

In 1869, John Rieff donated one acre to school district #12.[27] The following is an excerpt from the legal document: "I John Rieff of the County of Washington and State of Arkansas for and in consideration of the regard I have for common Schools and the education of the young and rising generation and various other valuable considerations I do hereby bargain and sell and by these presents transfer and convey unto School district number twelve…"

Rieff's Chapel School was probably in operation before John Rieff's death, rather than being built after his donation of one acre, but this is speculation based on some evidence. A 1926 Rieff's Chapel School registry book places its inception "about 1865," but it is not known if this refers to the structure being rebuilt following the Civil War, or if the 1865 date is referring to the first chapel and school ever built in the community. There is yet no firm evidence of when it was built or who built it, but the Rieffs were carpenters known for having built several other historically significant structures in the county (including Ozark Institute and Arkansas College)[28], the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (which operated the chapel) had much earlier chapels built nearby, school district #12 was already in existence to receive the donated acre, and it's unlikely this community composed of relatively well-off settlers would have gone from the 1830s until 1869 with nothing but a cemetery among themselves.

Rieff's Chapel school teacher Alta Mae Cate recorded a plethora of information in the school register book for 1926-1927 in response to fill-in-the-blank questionnaires. Rieff's Chapel School #12 was a 1-room elementary school up to grade 8. It had 860 square feet of floor space, and 88.9 square feet of window glass. The windows were 2 feet, 7 inches from the floor and 3 feet from the ceiling. The height of the ceiling was 10 feet. The walls and the ceiling were both painted white.

The blackboard was made of wood, not slate. The blackboard was 27 ½" inches off the floor. There were 13 double seats fastened to the floor for students. It was a frame building with an ordinary stove and windows and doors for ventilation. It had two outdoor toilets that were marked as "unsanitary." The date of erection is listed as about 1865, and the original cost of the building was about $400. The water supply came from a spring (located at the Johnson Farm, because the school well wasn't usable), and the students had individual cups dipped into a covered receptacle. There were no globe, very few books, no charts, and no playground equipment or laboratory equipment. There was one US flag hung on the wall inside the school building. Alta Mae Cate was paid $65 a month for teaching.[29]

This same school record book lists every imaginable detail anyone would ever want to know about each student, except maybe their favorite color. For every student, a record was kept of their age, grades in each subject, address, parent or guardian's names and occupations (all were farmers), physical or mental challenges, reasons for absences, how many years of school they'd had previously, and more. For example, the record for student Fay Davis lists the following information: born September 26, 1911. Age as of September 1, 1926: 14 years. She had 5 years of previous schooling and was vaccinated in 1925. She had defective eyesight, infantile paralysis, and a crippled foot or leg. She lived 1 mile from Rieff's Chapel School on Route #3 with H. M. Davis. Reason for withdrawal: moving away. (Please see Appendix B for the names of children listed for the 1926-1927 school year noted in the above record book by Alta Mae Cate, as well as the class list for the 1915 – 1916 school year taken from one of the Johnson notebooks.)

The students that year studied reading, arithmetic, history, spelling, language, hygiene and physiology, and geography. They played games in an open dirt area in front of the school which remains open forest, such that a driver could still turn a wagon around in front of the school foundation today.

B3 recalled, "My father would be out on the road with a basket of pears when the students would come to the spring for water. He knew if he didn't give them one, they would take one anyway and he didn't want them to be stealing." For student memories and information on teachers, elections, district finances, and more, refer to the book *School*

Days, School Days... The History of Education in Washington County, 1830-1950.[30]

Among the myriad Johnson journals and notebooks that mention the school is found this list from July 12, 1915, that was labeled Rieff Chapel School District 12 school supplies:

- 1 Tin Bucket = 25 cents
- 1 Dozen cups = 55 cents
- 2 brooms = 65 cents
- 6 boxes crayons = 90 cents
- 5 erasers = 25 cents

In a letter on February 22, 1923, Rachel wrote to Arthur (who was then on the school board for District #12) about a special Rieff's Chapel school dinner: "Nearly the whole neighborhood was there. They had quite a nice dinner which all enjoyed. The room was decorated in purple and orange crepe paper and looked quite pretty. The pupils gave a short program of recitations, songs and drills which they carried out quite well for such a few. Marguerite was the only one who passed the eighth grade exam and received the diploma from county examiner Bass. [unclear name] presented by Bro. Kelley. The Swartz family was there also and rendered some string music." In the Johnson letters, there are numerous such descriptions of pie suppers (with boys guessing which pie their girl made and trying to buy it), Christmas programs, and events at Rieff's.

The school consolidated with Greenland in 1931, but continued offering services and Sunday school for all ages for many years later.[31] It was also used by the "Holy Rollers" for boisterous services in the 1930s, until Eva Johnson acquired ownership of the schoolhouse acre in 1941, and the Johnsons demolished the wood frame building as well as the wagon road bridge to prevent passage to the schoolhouse.[32] Some of the slates and materials used by the students remain today in the Johnson farmhouse. The stone foundation and water well can still be seen in the woods off the overgrown wagon road, all a part of the Historic Johnson Farm today.

1871-1891: New Owners.

John Rieff died on May 23, 1870, and as outlined in his last will and testament, the farm was sold to the highest bidder on Decem-

ber 10, 1870. Widow Elizabeth Marguerite O'Neal was now the owner. Her winning bid was $651.75. She would own the farm for more than a decade, but research is ongoing as to what occurred here under her ownership. The Abstract to Title for the farm gives this testament from witness J. A. Fallin, who said he was well acquainted with Elizabeth and had been acquainted with the farm for the past 25 to 30 years before his statement: "The possession of the said Elizabeth M. O'Neal and her grantees was peaceable, open and notorious and accentuated by cultivation and improvement."

On January 2, 1883, after the passing of Elizabeth, her children William A. O'Neal and Ella L. Gray sold the farm to L. Griffin and wife Moselle for $400. That same year, Griffin sold it at a profit to Edwin and Catherine Alonzo for $750. The Alonzos paid $300 up front. On November 24, 1884, Edwin and Catherine Alonzo took out a mortgage loan from Dr. James W. Jones, a well-known doctor in the area, to secure a $400 payment due in a year's time. Sadly, Edwin died the following year. They didn't pay back the $400, so, on November 14, 1887, Savannah J. Jones, Dr. Jones' widow and executrix of the estate, sold the farm to William S. Tunstill (Washington County Treasurer, 1884-1888) for $800. He retained the farm for more than 3 years.

1891: The Ucker Era.

On February 10, 1891, William S. Tunstill and his wife Philadelphia Ann Tunstill sold the 80 acres to Henry C. Ucker Sr. and Regina Ucker, his wife, for $1,500. The Ucker family would operate the farm for 17 years. The Ucker brothers Henry, Andrew C., and William E. were all involved, but it is not yet known which of these brothers saw the pears on the counter of the B. F. Johnson cash store, and kicked off the beginning of the Johnson Farm.

Henry (Sr.) and Regina had four children growing up on the farm: Edward Joseph, Agnes, Claude, and Henry C. (Jr). Henry, or "Old Man Ucker," as the neighbor boys called him, planted pear orchards here, according to a 1956 newspaper article.[33] "The pear orchard was planted in 1895 and 1896 by Henry Ucker and was formerly known as the Ucker Orchard. Some 1,800 trees were set out originally on 32 foot squares, with 48 trees per acre. Johnson gets about one good and two fair crops out of each five years." Henry is also said to have con-

structed the rock walls bordering the wagon road and orchards. Harold Cate of Rieff's Chapel Community recalled in an interview by Anne Prichard that his father helped Henry build the wall. The Cate family owned Cate's Mountain, the history of which is also stored in the Johnson farmhouse. Today, it is called Round Top Mountain and is a wildlife preserve as part of the protected property within the Johnson Farm.

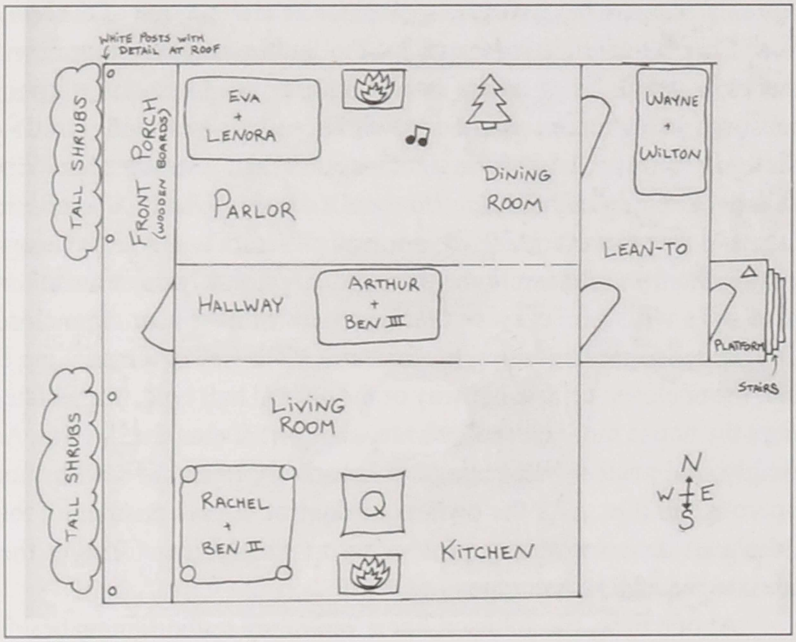
The Uckers operated the H. C. Ucker Confectionery in Fayetteville. Advertisements in 1904 in the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* tantalized customers with promises of hot chocolate, coffee, ginger snaps, graham crackers, lady fingers, vanilla and lemon wafers "fresh and crisp just from the factory" and surprisingly, "fresh oysters, raw, stewed or fried at Ucker's Confectionery."

In 1905, Henry and Regina Ucker sold the farm to Henry's brothers A. C. Ucker, W. E. Ucker, and wife Mary for $7,000. Andrew C. "Jack" Ucker was an Alderman in Fayetteville, and also operated the Ucker Bros. New York Store (also referred to as Ucker & Carlisle) with brother William E. Ucker and wife Mary (Carlisle). One of the many advertisements in the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* reads: "The New York Store is the place to get ribbons, lace and embroideries the cheapest in Fayetteville."

Apparently, despite the seeming change in ownership, Henry, Regina and their children continued farm operations. On August 19, 1908, "Claude Ucker was badly bruised by jumping from the wagon when his team was running away this morning. He and Henry Carter were bringing in a load of pears and when near Parksdale church the team became frightened. Claude's injuries are not serious."[34]

At least one of the Ucker children had fond attachments to the farm. The Uckers visited the Johnsons and neighbors in February 1916 after the death of 27-yr-old Rev. Edward Joseph Ucker, the eldest son who grew up on the farm. The Johnson boys, when asked by their father to extend the rock wall, would jokingly respond, "No, look what happened to the last guy who built it! Died in his 20's."

Rachel wrote about this event in February 1916: "There was a younger [Ucker] brother here during the week, said this place seemed more like home to him than any other place, and he would like to walk around. Papa and Wilton[35] were both away so I told him to go around as much as he liked. When Bennie came home from school he went out



The author's sketch approximates a floor plan of the Ucker Johnson farmhouse, as inhabited by the Johnsons. It is based on letters and photos, and includes two fireplaces, a Christmas tree, a quilt frame near the living room fireplace, and a back borch where Eva called the men to lunch at 11:30.

with him, he came back by the house, said the greatest change he saw was in the loss of the old Winesap trees, and that the spring did not seem nearly so far from the house as it used to be when he had to carry water. He also thought the pear trees were holding up better than he expected."

Winesap is a type of apple tree, so it seems like the Uckers planted apples as well as pears. In 1908, as part of the "store swap," the Uckers sold their 80-acre orchard to the Johnson family for $6,600.[36] The farm has remained in the Johnson family to this day, for a period of about 110 years. And now, let us return to see how the Johnsons are settling in to Rieff's Chapel Community.

Life at the Johnson Farm 1908 - 1925.

The Johnsons moved into the Ucker farmhouse; it's uncertain when it was built or who built it. One rough sketch of the home dictated by B3 (who eventually became a landscape architect) is labeled 1872 but no evidence yet exists to confirm this date. We do know how many

rooms existed and what activities took place in each section of the home.

This rough sketch (drawn by the author and not to scale) includes only details from letters or photographs, and not oral tradition. Because no evidence in regard to their location was found, windows and internal hallway doors were left out rather than guessing. Jean Sizemore's book, *Ozark Vernacular Houses: A Study of Rural Homeplaces in the Arkansas Ozarks 1830 - 1930*, was extraordinarily helpful in researching the first Johnson home. It appears that this home was either a dogtrot style with a breezeway that was later enclosed, or an enclosed central hall cottage. According to Sizemore, "The key distinguishing element, the enclosed central hallway of the central hall type, immediately renders the house more closed, private, and formal than the dogtrot. Accordingly, the central hall cottage is invariably associated with more prosperous families…As the owners of dogtrot houses prospered, they could signal their increasing prosperity by simply transforming their house into the central hall type."[37]

At one time, the Johnson Farm had many outbuildings, besides the farmhouse, barn, pergola, chicken house, springhouse, evaporator building, sorting shed, workhouse, feed lean-to, privies, wood fences, stone fences, and smokehouse. Today, only the farmhouse, pergola, chicken house, springhouse, rock walls, and famous Johnson Barn remain. Stone cellars and walls of the work house shed and sorting shed can still be seen plainly.

On March 4, 1911, the farmhouse got its first telephone "party line" shared by Rieff's Chapel Community. It was installed by the North Arkansas Telephone Company, and subscribers paid 25 cents per month payable quarterly in advance. Eavesdropping and gossip by neighbors were common here and apparently in most places that utilized party lines, but it also helped alert the entire neighborhood during emergencies such as fire.

When he was 21 years old, Wayne Johnson kept a meticulous work diary for 1912 and 1913 covering nearly every day of activities and, once appointed as a railway mail clerk, every day's train travel. This is a small, pocket-sized notebook. It describes mostly farm work, expenses, income, and entertainment. Wayne cut and hauled wood, bought candy for his younger siblings, killed hogs, put up fencing, plowed, harvested, went bowling, hauled rocks, planted grains and fruit trees, and frequent-

ly went into Fayetteville on errands or studied on Kessler Mountain. Wayne attended shows at Rieff's Chapel school and Ozark Theater, where the Johnson youth regularly saw silent films. Ticket stubs were kept by the Johnsons and neighbors around this time, for example: Clara Kelly's ticket to see "Le Médecin Malgré Lui" on June 3, 1911; ticket stubs for "St. Elmo" shown October 4, 1912; and tickets bought by Wayne Johnson and Cecil Kelly for "Town Fool" shown February 22, 1913. The neighborhood youth got together and played the card game Rook, sometimes until 11:00 at night!

The following are a few sample excerpts from Wayne's 1912-1913 diary:

1912 January 22 – got hay at Millsap's

1912 January 23 – hauled fodder at Kelly's, raised barbed wire in lane

1912 April 8 – dug pear tree holes, run Wozencraft's calves

1912 April 9 – disked and dug oats by schoolhouse, cut and split wood on mountain

1912 April 11 – dug apple tree holes

1914 and 1915 were years of busy construction on the farm. The smokehouse was built in 1914, and the receipts were kept showing that lumber was purchased from the Fayetteville Lumber and Cement Company.

Rachel wrote in 1914 that "Papa and Wilton have been busy building another cellar. Also had a stone mason [Jesse H. Paschal] from town last week and Will Dodson has been here doing first one thing and then another for a month. The cellar is just across the driveway north of the wood pile." Paschal (1858-1938) served on the Rieff's Chapel school board in 1893 and 1897. The new two-story cellar had stone rooms below a wood frame building set on a slope. The stone cellar was accessed from the east side, and used for storing sweet potatoes. The wooden section was accessed from the uphill west side and was used for apples.

On July 5, 1915, Rachel wrote that "They have put up the addition to the barn and roofed it between showers, it makes quite a bit more room for feed. I suppose papa will work on it now and finish it up while the boys plow and hoe. They are so anxious for him to finish the

shed on the East side. Oh we will keep working along and will get a nice place of it by the time we have to hand it over to someone else." She was right about one thing – the Johnsons made many improvements to the farm, some of which remain today. But thankfully, they never had to "hand it over."

Products of the Farm.

The farm was very productive, and the Johnsons grew most of what they needed and sold the surplus. Fruits of their orchards included pears, apples, peaches, plums, and cherries. We're fortunate to have photographs of the harvests as well as the various orchard trees in bloom during springtime. Grapes and strawberries were also cultivated. Their garden grew watermelon, asparagus, spinach, rhubarb, beets, green beans, turnips, radishes, lettuce, onions, sweet potato, potato, mustard greens, peas, tomatoes, and more. Flowers of many varieties were planted by various generations of Johnsons, including roses, lilies, jonquils, peonies, and iris. Fields which weren't needed for the orchard were sown with oats, and corn, and used as pasture at various times for milk cows and beef cattle. Mules and horses worked the farm. The family kept pigs and chickens, too. During WWI, B3 and his friend Jack Walker even operated a caviary to breed and sell guinea pigs where the pergola now stands today!

On March 22, 1910, Arthur wrote to his sister Eva: "We have lots more stock. We have seven more pigs and Daisy has a little red calf it is red all over. We are going to have more stock than feed I expect. We have set out several apple trees."

Wild foods were harvested seasonally, including persimmon, walnuts, mulberries, blackberries, paw-paw, and more. Game was plentiful, and the family regularly ate rabbit, opossum, quail, ground hog, and other wildlife. Bennie Johnson (B3) age 13, was straightforward about it in his letter on July 14, 1914: "The groundhog won't see his shadow next February 2nd because Chub [dog] and I killed him." It was common for B3 to shoot up to 8 rabbits in one location, and he often hunted for their pelts in addition to meat.

Possibly the most common celebration meal at the Johnson Farm was fried chicken, noodles, pickles, jelly with bread and butter, pears with whipped cream, cake, and apples stuffed with sweet potato

Arthur milking a cow near the barn.

and marshmallows. Rachel sometimes mailed a whole fried chicken and cake to her out-of-state children on their birthdays, with at least one mention of the chicken molding before it arrived.

When it came time for the county fair, they would enter pear butter, apple butter, and crates of fruit, often winning ribbons and prizes listed in the newspapers. On October 17, 1915, 14-yr-old B3 wrote to brother Wayne, "I got 2nd prize on Garber and Kiefer pears, the prize was 50 cents each." Each generation of Johnsons continued to win many prizes at county fairs through the 1980s. Dozens of prize ribbons are kept at the farmhouse.

The spring house kept butter and milk cool, and the family had an evaporator building to dry apple slices for sale. Other families and hired laborers (and later, maids) would come and help milk the cows, clean house, plow, and harvest fruits. According to the Encyclopedia of Arkansas online, "The fruit industry provided most of the jobs for Greenland residents. Johnson Pear Farm and Cook Orchard were two of the larger businesses based in Greenland. Cash crops in the early twentieth century included apples, pears, strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries. Most area farms also raised chickens and livestock, and grew vegetables. Parker Brothers Nursery provided trees for the orchards."

Neighboring orchards and farms were also mentioned in Johnson family letters. On April 6, 1915, B3 wrote "Cooks have a 'bull trac-

tor' at work over there [Cook's Orchard], it sounds like an airship only worse. They are plowing with it now in the orchard. Papa has been buying more trees. He bought 55 pear trees, 100 apples, 50 winesap and 50 other varieties mixed, and about 50 grape vines."

The Johnson Orchards.

Aerial photographs of the farm show that pretty much the entire property from one horizon to the next became orchard, and the size of the farm expanded throughout the years. Maintenance that had started with the Uckers, B2 and children, was carried on by B3 and son B4. Below are excerpts from letters and memoirs regarding orchard maintenance and varieties of fruit.

Orchard spraying and pruning were regular occurrences. On May 11, 1912, B2 wrote: "It took us 6 days to spray the orchard. We used 600 pounds of sulphur and the same amount of lime, and 150 pounds of arsenate of lead. We gave it the best spraying it has ever had since I have owned it. We used Lieut. Ellis' sprayer, he ran the engine and we done the spraying. We have the best prospect we have had yet for apples and the prospect is good for pears. We expect to have 2 or 3 acres of sweet potatoes this season, have 4 or 5 thousand sweet potato slips ready to set now."

There are hundreds of references to fruit throughout the Johnson letters, so that it was difficult to select just a few quotes. On October 16, 1937, Eva Johnson wrote that "Wilton thought the apples looked the best they had lately. He found a tree of Arkansas Black he thought were especially pretty. I packed the pears and Arthur took them to the express office. The apples were from the seedling tree from the seed of an apple Uncle Oliver gave Lenora & I in 1908. The apples on this tree were the nicest this year I have ever seen them." Oliver Johnson died in 1908 not long after giving the girls the apple with the seed they planted.

By the 1940s, Arthur was managing the orchards. In a 1956 newspaper article, Arthur said he had "20 acres of pears, one-third Keiffer and two-thirds Garber varieties."[38] This article also corroborated what can be read in the Johnson letters: "Some of the trees which were planted in 1895 have gone, and he [Arthur] gathers fruit from some which were re-set in 1912."

On September 25, 1984, B3 reflected: "What wasn't there when

Arthur eating a pear among bushels of harvested fruit.

we arrived was put in the first spring. We grew Arkansas Black, Mammoth Black Twig, Ben Davis, Winesaps, Old Fashioned Winesaps, Stamen Winesaps, Rome Beauty, and more varieties."

On October 21, 1988, B3 dictated a list of apple varieties that had once grown at the farm including Sheep's Nose, Red Astrochan, Northern Spy, Early Harvest, Summer Belle, Fall Pippin, Maiden's Blush, Bell-Flower, Jonathan, Limber Twig, and Russet. Winesaps made very good apple juice, he said.

There were 80 trees of 14 pear varieties planted by B4 starting in 1968, including: Kieffer, Bartlett, Garber, Maxine, Moonglow, Magness, Lincoln, Sockel, Dabney, Orient, Early Douglas, Dymond, Campus, Le Conte, and the last variety being written in the records as "question mark" or unknown. The "upper" orchard is closest to Rieff's Chapel Cemetery, and the "lower" is close to the farmhouse. Both grow wild today.

Christmas at Rieff's Chapel.

The following are excerpts from various Christmas letters:

"The Christmas tree bore its annual crop last night and all went off nicely…thank you for the journal, but I think you were too generous; if you are not careful, your bank account will not grow." –Rachel to daughter Eva December 26, 1911.

"We received the box you send by Express. I am much obliged

to Santa for my nice presents. We had a Christmas tree here at Rieff's Chapel on Christmas night. The children gave an entertainment in connection with the tree. We all had a nice time. Wilton was the Santa Claus." –B2 to daughter Eva, December 26, 1911.

"We had a little Christmas tree here at home. Mama said it was the prettiest tree we ever had here, it lighted up the whole room. They had a arch and a tree both at Rieff's. Miss Pearl put an orange on for all the school kids. I got a little boy scout book and a sack of candy from the Sunday School." –B3, age 13, December 1914.

"We had a quiet Christmas, just the three of us here [B2, Rachel and Eva]. Papa and I went up to the tree at Rieff Christmas Eve. They had a big tree and quite a program. Papa and you and the rest of the boys got socks, the old ladies got a dish, except Mamma she got two of those 'chore girls' dish scrapers. I drew a glass dish filled with bath salts. The youngsters got toys and candy. Earl was Santa Claus. Papa brought in a little cedar about 2 ½ feet high and I trimmed it with the trimmings we had, some we brought from Everton [Missouri]." – Eva to Arthur, January 10, 1929.

A Halloween Prank.

Wilton Johnson wrote to his brother Wayne on October 31, 1915, about a neighborhood Halloween prank: "The folks had supper up on Cate's Mountain last night up close to the mud hole on top. Ed and Alice [Kelly] went to town to Baptist church instead of coming to supper. So coming back me and the Kelly wimmin (old lady and all) stacked the furniture in the cabin close to Spring. You should have seen the mess. I took the slats out of bead [sic] and put them between the ticks [sic] and took the lard can out of the kitchen and set it under the bed. Then we drug out an old cot and set it up and took Ed's old clothes and stuffed them and laid [them] on said cot. Got the old gun and a bottle and old ash pan for 'spittoon' and set it beside the cot and tied a piece of corn bread to one hand. Then we got a rock[ing] chair and set it close to the cot and got Alice's duds and stuffed them and set them in said chair. We turned the pictures to the wall and, in fact, strewed things around right. We didn't expect them to come home till this evening, but

Ed came home last night. He was sure hot. He called Alice up about 11 to tell her about it. If anything develops, I will tell you later. I hear the old man Rogers was looking for his buggy wheels this morning. What do you think of that?"

Halloween wasn't the only time of year for playing pranks. April Fool's Day was celebrated by some at Rieff's Chapel Community, too. On April 6, 1915, B3 described one such trick: "Did you get April fooled? I got one off on Bill Summers, he drove up laughing and I said, Bill, what makes your horse slabber so? He looked around and I said, April fool!"

Arthur Queener Johnson, aka Snowball.

The Adventures of Snowball.

Arthur was a snappy dresser and liked to disappear. Nicknamed "Snowball," at age 19 he decided to skip town without word to his folks. Traveling with his buddy Elvis, they hopped trains and raided farms for food. This is an excerpt from a letter to his brother Wayne on February 23, 1916:

"I do not believe I finished telling you of my travels in the last letter, so we'll connect up as least I can remember. We arrived in Commerce about 12 o' clock Monday… But as it was very light, the breakmen kept an eye on the car, we thought we would hang it, as it stayed there about an hour. When it started, there were three brakies on top, so we were put off fast as we climbed on. We were mad then, so we started on down the track toward Cason, as Elvis said he knew we would not starve there. About 12:30, we hit a few houses, got our pockets filled with sweet potatoes and corn bread, and I nearly got choked once, big dry potato. I never could eat one dry without having the hiccups. Well that evening about 6 we landed in Sulphur Springs. We were tired, so we went to the Katy

depot... We were soon surrounded by a heavy slumber... We stayed there about an hour, when a passenger [train] came along. We got on the other side of the train. We thought they were about ready to pull out, when the conductor came around and asked us where we were going.

"'Down the road,' I said.

"'Don't get on that train,' he said, 'I've got a 45 Colt in my hip pocket.'

"'You had better keep it greased up,' I said.

"Next day, we found the baggage car had been robbed two or three nights before. It was real cold, so we started walking to keep warm... We slept till about 12:30, [stole] a few more sweet potatoes, and walked on. It seemed that sweet potato was all those East Texas people had to eat!" When he eventually returned home, B2 at first forbade Arthur from finishing his last year of school at Fayetteville High School. But brother Wayne insisted that Arthur finish his education and honor the sacrifice made by Wilton, who had given up school for a year to remain on the farm and help with labor while Arthur finished school. Wayne's letters are filled with the importance of finishing one's education. Arthur eventually "delivered the goods" as Wayne would say, and graduated from Fayetteville High School on May 19, 1916, in the Ozark Theatre, where commencement was typically held during this time period.

An Orphan at Fayetteville Depot.

Relatives had been visiting the Johnson farm and had to leave on the train. B2 went to the Fayetteville depot to see them off. In her letter dated May 28, 1917, Rachel wrote, "When he came back he said he had found me an orphan. You know I have said (but without much idea of doing it) that I was going to get me an orphan to help me. Well he had heard some folks talking about a little girl that had no home, and that if I wanted to we would go around and see her. Well we went and brought her home with us. I cannot tell you all in this letter but her mother died in Ohio when she was two years old. Her father married again and came to Fayetteville. He and his wife separated and the five children scattered, I do not know why but the father seems to not have tried to keep them together. This one's name is Grace Taylor, she is

Grace Taylor, adopted by the Johnson family, at age 13.

13 past, and about the size of Gladys Nickell. She is not so quick as some but seems to be careful and quite willing to try. She is very anxious to learn to cook, and really does quite well. I was talking with her and said that she needed a home and I needed some help and if we could get along it might be a good thing for both of us and she said 'I think we can get along all right.' So you see I do not know how long I will keep her." Everything worked out fine, and in the 1920 census, Grace Taylor was listed as adopted by the Johnsons. Rachel wrote about Grace frequently in her letters to her sons and daughters. The following are a few excerpts:

November 6, 1917, letter with a box of apples for Lenora: "Grace sends the extra big and little. She wore her dress quite a bit, and seemed to like it. I finally got her blue middy made, and she is much pleased with it. She usually does up the breakfast dishes, and brings a bucket of water before going to school, and always wants to know, 'what do you want me to do?' of evenings."

February 25, 1918: "Grace is eager to get that recipe for war cake. We have about quit making cookies and I guess she is like the Soldiers – wants something sweet…Grace and I have just made some candy, will send you a sample. I sent for white Karo but they sent me the red, so the marshmallows are not so nice as they should be."

January 6, 1920, Reflections on Christmas 1919: "Wilton and I gave Grace a hand glass and hair brush and gave the boys and Papa handkerchiefs…We had about the usual good things for dinner except we did not have sugar to make candy. I told Grace she might have some molasses taffy. I helped to boil it and poured it out to cool and as I was busy told her and Wilton to pull it. When I came in they had it twisted in big sticks. That was Christmas Eve. Grace told me later that she had never seen molasses taffy before, but she watched Wilton a while and went to work. His was whiter, she said he could pull harder. Sugar is 25 cents per pound here, we are not buying much. There was a while there was none for sale scarcely at all in Fayetteville."

April 20, 1920: "Grace has had a time of it the last two weeks churning and learning to mould the butter."

In the early 1920s, Grace moved to Fayetteville and began work at a laundry as a silk finisher. She married Lloyd Hudson on December 1, 1923, in Fayetteville. They had one child, Taylor Lloyd Hudson. It is not clear what became of Grace and her child, but research is ongoing.

Editor's note: Part II of *The Historic Johnson Farm* will be published in the Spring 2019 issue of *Flashback.*

Endnotes

[1]Benjamin Franklin Johnson II, born February 16, 1852, died January 19, 1932
[2]Nolan Gunter, "Driftwood: Johnson Store in Everton," Miller Press, November 1970.
[3]Rachel Elizabeth (Divelbiss) Johnson, born March 20, 1860, died April 10, 1838
[4]Benjamin Franklin Johnson, born March 12, 1835, died April 22, 1929
[5]*History of Benton,Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian*

Counties, Arkansas (Goodspeed Publishing Co, 1889), 965 – 966

[6]Mary Ann Pilkington, born March 2, 1830, died May 6, 1905

[7]Oliver Perry Johnson, born September 5, 1826, died March 29, 1908

[8]"Lawrence County Missouri Record," Vol IX, April 2, 1908

[9]Frederick Wayne Johnson, born March 12, 1891, died June 23, 1918, during World War I

[10]Mary Eva Johnson, born May 12th 1886, died July 2, 1962

[11]Lenora Ellen Johnson, born March 6, 1889 died January 7th 1965

[12]Benjamin Franklin Johnson III, born June 12, 1901, died April 24, 1991

[13]Original document, Johnson Family Papers: B3 handwritten autobiography, 1911.

[14]John Branner, "Arkansas Geological Survey Annual Report," Vol. 4, 1888. 8.

[15]David Dale Owen, *Second Report of a Geological Reconnaissance of the Middle and Southern Counties of Arkansas* (Philadelphia: C. Sherman & Son Printers, 1860), 257.

[16]Nicholas Righter, Deputy Surveyor, James S. Conway, Surveyor General, "Original Land Survey of Washington County," Section 31, Township 16 North, Range 30 West, 1831-1833.

[17]These 80 acres are legally described as the east half (or northeast and southeast quarters, before they were merged) of the southwest fractional quarter of Section 31, Township 16 North, Range 30 West amounting to 79 acres and 1 acre for school purposes.

[18]Washington County Archives, Original Plat Map, 1834.

[19]Original document, Abstract to Title for Johnson Farm, Martin to Rieff, August 20, 1838. Note: although the Johnson Papers (including this Abstract referenced frequently herein) are not accessible to the public, all property transactions for the Johnson Farm are also stored at the Washington County Archives, and searchable online.

[20]Original document, Abstract to Title for Johnson Farm, US Government to Rieff, September 12, 1843.

[21]John Rieff, born June 9, 1787, died May 23, 1870

[22]Hannah Ross, born December 12, 1784, died April 17, 1853 (from gravestone)

[23]Walter J. Lemke, "Some Rieff Records from 1814 – 1861," *Flashback*, November 1951, 9-13.

[24]In the 1840 slave schedule, Madison was 18 and Wesley was 4, both owned by the Rieffs and probably living on or near the modern-day Johnson Farm. In the 1850 slave schedule, Madison was 28 and Wesley was 14.

[25]Richard A. Koppe, *A Place to Rest, to Play or Just to Be: A Documentation of the History, Geography, and Architecture of Kessler Mountain, Washington County, Arkansas* (1983), 12

[26]Arthur Queener Johnson, born July 9, 1897, died September 19, 1974

[27]Original document, Abstract to Title for Johnson Farm, Rieff to District 12, February 11th, 1869.

[28]Richard A. Koppe, *A Place to Rest, to Play or Just to Be: A Documentation of the History, Geography, and Architecture of Kessler Mountain, Washington County, Arkansas* (1983), 9

[29]1926 School Record for Rieff's Chapel School #12, filled out by teacher Alta Mae Cate.

[30]Washington County Retired Teachers Association, *School Days, School Days: The History of Education in Washington County, 1830-1950* (1986), 158 – 161. Note: the Rieff's Chapel School #12 section contains misspellings and inaccurate information regarding the inception and destruction of the school as well as the neighboring orchard. Check the source material, such as property deeds, located in the Washington County Archives.

[31]Washington County Archives and Johnson Family Papers.

[32]Original document, Abstract to Title for Johnson Farm, District 95 to Eva Johnson April 5th 1941.

[33]"Arthur Johnson Harvests Fourth of Normal Crop of Pears on Farm Near Greenland, Orchard Planted Many Years Ago," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, October 24, 1956, 13.

[34]"Today in History," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, August 18, 1983, 4.

[35]Wilton Draper Johnson born January 26, 1894, died October 3, 1966

[36]Original document, Abstract to Title for Johnson Farm, Ucker to Johnson, October 19, 1908.

[37]Jean Sizemore, *Ozark Vernacular Houses: A Study of Rural Homeplaces in the Arkansas Ozarks 1830-1930* (University of Arkansas Press: 1994), 93

[38]"Arthur Johnson Harvests Fourth of Normal Crop of Pears on Farm Near Greenland, Orchard Planted Many Years Ago," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, October 24, 1956, 13.

Appendices

Appendix A: Rieff's Chapel Cemetery

The following families were buried in Rieff's Chapel Community. This information comes from research given from Gene Mock to Anne Prichard in the 1990's, and may be out of date. Those who compiled this research counted 130 unmarked graves, and there appears to be an infants' section of these, suggested by the small spaces between stones, and the presence of only one marked grave labeled "Martha's Child."

Adams
Bailey
Benton
Bohannan
Brighton
Brinson
Carney
Carter
Cate
Cato
Cox
Davis
Dolson
Dotson
Dowell
Hall
Hambrick
Hembree
Henry
Howard
Hughes
Jenkins
Johnes
Johnson
Kellachow
Kelly
Kessler
Leimser
Lewis
McCollom
Milsap
Morelock
Morgan
Mullins
Paschal
Pate
Rieff
Roberts
Rogers
Sapp
Stearns
Swafford
Talley
Walker
Wilkison
Wozencraft

Appendix B: Rieff's Chapel School #12

Rieff's Chapel Common School #12 Census 1928 - 1931

The annual student census contained one parent or guardian name, student's names, dates of birth, age, gender, and information on whether or not they were blind, deaf, dumb, feeble-minded, or had defective eyesight or a physical handicap. Each census also gave a rough address, such as the name of the head of household or farm name (Cook Farm, Trent Farm, Cate Farm, Isley and Baker Farm, Mills Farm).

February 1, 1928 – January 31, 1929
Enumerator: B. F. Johnson II

Bell, Lee
Bell, Rayo
Bell, Floyd
Bell, Joy
Bowling, James A.
Bowling, Easter (born on Easter 1913)
Bowling, Bert
Bowling, Houston
Cate, Harold John
Cate, Carroll Hugh
Cate, Everett Paul
Cate, Violet Annabell
Cate, Gordon Lee
Cate, Walter Edward
Dotson, Earl
Dotson, Cleo Louise
Dotson, John Edward
Dotson, Annie E.
Mills, Alvena
Towler, Walter
Towler, Charley
Towler, Henry
Wozencraft, Virginia Mae
Wozencraft, Grace Marguret

February 1, 1929 – January 31, 1930
Enumerator: Mrs. H. H. Cate

Bell, Lee
Bell, Rayo
Bell, Floyd
Bell, Joy
Bell, Jack
Brewer, Burl
Brewer, Joyce
Brewer, Pauline
Cate, Harold John
Cate, Carroll Hugh
Cate, Everett Paul
Cate, Violet Annabell
Cate, Gordon Lee
Cate, Walter Edward
Cate, Marie
Cate, Paul
Cate, Faye
Cate, Mildred
Dotson, Cleo Louise
Dotson, John Edward
Dotson, Annie E
Wozencraft, Virginia May
Wozencraft, Grace

February 1, 1930 – January 31, 1931
Enumerator: Mrs. H. H. Cate

Bell, Lee
Bell, Rayo
Bell, Floyd
Bell, Joy
Bell, Jack
Bell, Bobbie
Cate, Harold John
Cate, Carroll Hugh
Cate, Everett Paul
Cate, Violet Annabell
Cate, Gordon Lee
Cate, Walter Edward
Cate, Otis
Cate, Marie
Cate, Paul
Cate, Lela Faye
Cate, Mildred
Dotson, Cleo Louise
Dotson, John Edward
Dotson, Annie E
Dotson, Fred
Tate, Bobbie
Tate, Leroy
Tate, Virgil
Tate, Daisy
Terry, Mildred
Terry, Orais Paul
Terry, Ruby (middle name unclear)
Terry, Noal (full name unclear)
Terry, Velma
Terry, Joe Samuel
Wozencraft, Virginia May
Wozencraft, Grace Margaret
Wozencraft, Buster

February 1, 1931 – January 31, 1932
Enumerator: Mrs. H. H. Cate
*Note that Rieff's Chapel School District 12 was consolidated with Greenland District #95 on March 30, 1931 at a meeting of the Washington County Board of Education.

Bell, Lee
Bell, Rayo
Bell, Floyd
Bell, Joy
Bell, Jack
Bell, Bobbie
Cate, Harold John
Cate, Carroll Hugh
Cate, Everett Paul
Cate, Violet Annabell
Cate, Gordon Lee
Cate, Walter Edward
Cate, Otis
Cate, Marie
Cate, Paul
Cate, Lela Faye
Cate, Mildred
Dotson, Earl
Dotson, Cleo Louise
Dotson, John Edward
Dotson, Annie E
Dotson, Fred
Dill, Lexie
Dill, Ellis
Dill, Lucille

Washington County Historical Society

announces

Annual Competition for Articles on History of Washington County

The Washington County Historical Society announces the tenth annual competition for the Walter J. Lemke Prize and the Lessie Stringfellow Read Prize with a call for submissions.

Topics can address any aspect of Washington County history, including archeology, lives of individuals, or records of institutions, and can be set in any time period. Both professional and amateur historians are invited to submit articles.

A $250 prize is offered in each of two categories: the Walter J. Lemke Prize for best article on Washington County history, with a preference given to subjects outsisde Fayetteville; and the Lessie Stringfellow Read Prize, with preference given for the best article about Fayetteville. Winners will be recognized at the society's annual meeting in October.

Manuscripts will be judged on contribution to the expansion of the county's history; originality of the subject; and use of primary and secondary sources. Manuscripts must be original material, and not previously published; they must be typed, preferably include endnotes, and have a maximum length of 40 pages, not inclusive of endnotes. The title page should be headed: "WCHS Prize," followed by the manuscript's full title, and the author's name, mailing address, telephone number, and email.

Entries become the property of the WashingtonCounty Historical Society and will not be returned. All submissions will be considered for publication in *Flashback*. WCHS reserves the right to award one or no prizes.

All submissions for both prizes will be deposited in the Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Libraries. Mail submissions to Lemke Prize, Washington County Historical Society, 118 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Alternatively, submissions - as well as any questions - can be emailed to Patsy Watkins at pwatkins@uark.edu by June 30, 2019.

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WCHS Program Focuses on Stories Of Diverse Settlers in NWA

By Breybinda Alvarez

"Arkansas, the land of opportunity."

Lorenzo Reyes, a native of Chile, read the words as his wife held up his first license plate from the State of Arkansas.

Reyes, a speaker for the program on "Diverse Settlers in Northwest Arkansas: Latinx Selected Stories," joined others last month in sharing stories about when, why, and how they settled in Northwest Arkansas. The speakers were grouped into three panels of voices from South American and the Caribbean, from Central America and Mexico, and from Latinx Organizations in discussing the questions "who are we? from whence, when, and why did we come? and what do/did we do?"

The program was sponsored by the Committee on Diverse Settlers of the Washington County Historical Society in conjunction with the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History. It was held November 18 at Shiloh Museum in Springdale.

Dr. Margaret Clark, chair of the WCHS Committee on Diverse Settlers, said, "There are people here from practically every country in Latin America and not just from the ones they [people in the community] read about in the news all the time. Our community is enriched by having everyone here, and they contribute as well as anyone else."

Reyes, a member of the first panel, is a retired U.S. Army Major. He is also retired from the Springdale School District, having followed the advice of Dr. Clark, his mentor, to teach Spanish. Three other panelists were Luis Bernardo Rojas, Senior Supply Chain Optimization Manager at Sam's Club, who came to Arkansas from Bolivia; Fernando Valencia, lecturer in percussion at the University of Arkansas Music Department, who is from Colombia; and Al "Papa Rap" Lopez, musician and school liaison for the Springdale School District, a New York native with roots in Puerto Rico.

The four panelists agreed that there were language, background, and culture barriers when each of them arrived in Northwest Arkansas. They encouraged people to let go of the stereotype of thinking that only Latinos can help Latinos. Instead, they said they want to continue serving as the

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"middle man" in helping people connect. They concluded that being different is not a bad thing.

The second panel included speakers from Central America and Mexico. Cesar Aguilar, soccer director for Rogers Parks and Recreation, is from El Salvador; Dr. Yamileth Pate, a dentist with Hope Dental Professionals, is from Honduras; Andres Herrera, Client Service Analyst with Nielsen Company, from Panama; and Rafael Arciga, who is associate director for the UofA Diversity Recruitment, from Mexico.

Panelists stressed the importance of helping set everyone up for success with skills they can bring to the table. Although the panelists all faced obstacles, they overcame them in order to settle in their new home and encourage others in doing the same.

The third panel addressed Latinx Organizations founded to serve the Northwest Arkansas community by some of the first Latinx settlers who saw a need for resources to serve the increasing numbers of minorities in the area. Panelists included Mireya Reith from Arkansas United and Dr. Diana Gonzales Worthen who is the Director of Project RISE at the UofA. Dr. Worthen was also involved in founding the Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas, and One Community, which promotes bilingual reading between parents and children. By reading bilingual books to each other all year, they help maintain and preserve both languages; they read in English, Spanish, and Marshallese.

Arciga joined the panel in place of Ray Hernandez, president of the state and NWA Council 754 of LULAC-AR, who was unable to attend. Arciga spoke about LULAC-AR and how it helps students trying to make their way through higher education.

Musical interludes between panels were provided by Papa Rap, William Reyes, and Valencia, who drummed on tumbadoras, which are tall, narrow, single-headed drums from Cuba. They played Bossa Nova (new trend) music from the 1950s that originated in Brazil. Refreshments included traditional dishes such as Chilean empañadas filled with piño, a mixture of seasoned ground beef, onion, raisins, black olives, and hard-boiled eggs.

Dr. Clark said that her goal was for the community to listen to the Latinx stories and understand the degree to which there is Latino diversity in Northwest Arkansas.

In concluding the program, she said, "From a person who was a major, to a dentist, to organization founders, look at all the kinds of work they are involved in. They are contributors, they are people who call it home, just as I call it home."

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